During the cyclone dated 29th & 30th October, 1999 in Orissa, NH-5 was damaged at km 149.2 which was restored and traffic movement allowed on 6th November, 1999. Scouring and erosion of embankment took place at few places which were repaired and traffic restored.

Maintenance Cost of Road

745. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to poor workmanship and technology, the maintenance cost of our Highways are exhorbitant;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to non-availability of maintenance funds, the quality of roads is poor and deteriorating day by day; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government plan to overcome these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In the recent years there has been a shortfall of around 40% in allocation of maintenance funds.

(c) The allocation for the current financial year has increased from Rs. 549.80 crores to Rs. 703 crores.

Length of National Highways

746. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise break-up for the length of existing National Highways as on date;

(b) the length of National Highway per thousand population in the respective States with State-wise details;

(c) the allocation for maintenance for each State and the basis thereof;